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## REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE.

### ZOÖLOGY.

**Reptilian Affinities of Primitive Mammals.** — Sixta<sup>1</sup> has investigated the osteology of the foot in monotremes with the view of ascertaining the affinities of this primitive group of mammals. The monotremes possess a humerus with an epicondyloid foramen like that in reptiles, especially in the fossil *Dimetrodon*. Their radius, ulna, and carpal elements are arranged on the primitive reptilian plan, and yet their front feet are not unlike those of some marsupials (*Dasyurus*). In the hind foot the astragalus and calcaneum resemble those of reptiles, and the foot, on the whole, is oriented as in that group. The tarsals are as numerous as in the marsupials, but their forms and positions are typically monotrematic. The structure of the hind foot indicates an intermediate position for the monotremes between reptiles and marsupials. This opinion is further supported by a large body of evidence drawn from other organs, such as the heart and chief blood vessels (Hochstetter), the brain (Ziehen, Smith), the copulatory organs (Gadow), the embryonic membranes (Semon), the teeth (Poulton, Cope, Osborn), and skull.

P.

**Anatomical Miscellanies.** — The three numbers of the *Hopkins Hospital Bulletin*<sup>2</sup> for April, May, and June are combined into a single part and devoted to a collection of some twenty-three essays, mostly anatomical. The series opens with Barker's address on the Study of Anatomy, delivered at the Rush Medical College in October, 1900. Bardeen describes a new carbon-dioxide freezing microtome, Born's wax-plate reconstruction method as used in the Anatomical Laboratory at Hopkins, and calls attention to the importance of ordinary dissection-room material in scientific study. The cold-storage method of preserving bodies for dissection is dwelt

<sup>1</sup> Sixta, V. Vergleichend-osteologische Untersuchung über den Bau der Füße der Reptilien, Monotremen, und Marsupialier, *Zool. Anzeiger*, Bd. xxiv (1901), pp. 321-332.

<sup>2</sup> *Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital*, vol. xii, Nos. 121-122, 123, April-May-June, 1901.